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In the Application of **Halseth**

Application No. 09/633,793

Attorney Docket No. 1032-P01510US1

Filed: August 7, 2000

For: Fluid Sampling Device with
Retractable Needle

Examiner: Ghafoorian

Group Art Unit: 3731

RESPONSE TO ACTION

IN THE CLAIMS

✓ Please cancel claims 7-13.

Please amend claims 1 and 2 and add newly presented claims 14-58. A marked-up copy of the claims is provided in Attachment A, showing the amendments to the claims.

1. (Amended) A method for withdrawing a fluid sample from a patient, comprising the steps of:
 - a. providing a sampling device having a housing, a plunger and a needle having a sharpened tip for piercing the patient;
 - b. collecting fluid from the patient in the housing;
 - c. retracting the needle into the plunger so that the sharpened tip of the needle is shielded to prevent inadvertent contact with the sharpened tip; and
 - d. expelling the fluid from the housing after the needle is retracted.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of expelling fluid